

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market News Division

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HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 2015

IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY -

(# Some in Small Lot --- +Some delayed payments or previous commitment)

CALIFORNIA

Cotton	Extra Light Amber	\$1.96	
Orange Blossom	White	\$2.20	
Valley	Extra Light Amber	\$1.96	
Wildflower	White	\$1.95	

DAKOTA

Clover	White	\$2.00	- \$2.09
Clover	Light Amber	\$2.01	
Buckwheat	Light Amber	\$1.83	- \$2.06
Buckwheat	Amber	\$1.55	
Sunflower	White	\$2.01	
Western	White	\$2.06	
Western	Extra Light Amber	\$2.06	
Western	Light Amber	\$2.06	
Wildflower	White	\$1.95	

FLORIDA

Brazilian Pepper	Light Amber	\$1.83	- \$1.85
Gallberry	Extra Light Amber	\$1.96	
Gallberry	Light Amber	\$1.83	- \$1.85
Meltor	Dark	\$1.55	
Orange Blossom	Extra Light Amber	\$2.05	- \$2.23
Orange Blossom	Light Amber	\$2.20	
Wildflower	Light Amber	\$1.75	- \$1.84

IDAHO

Wildflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.96	
Wildflower	Light Amber	\$1.84	
Wildflower	Amber	\$1.55	

MICHIGAN

Star Thistle	Extra Light Amber	\$1.96	
Star Thistle	Light Amber	\$1.83	
Star Thistle	Amber	\$1.55	

MINNESOTA

Wildflower	White	\$2.00	
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MONTANA

Alfalfa	White	\$2.01	
Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	\$2.01	
Clover	White	\$2.00	- \$2.06

NEBRASKA

Clover	White	\$2.00	- \$2.09
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OREGON

Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	\$1.96	
Alfalfa	Amber	\$1.55	- \$1.83

TEXAS

Western	White	\$2.06	
Western	Extra Light Amber	\$2.06	

WISCONSIN

Clover	White	\$2.35	
Alfalfa	White	\$2.01	

Prices paid to Canadian Beekeepers for unprocessed, bulk honey by packers and importers in U. S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty and crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

Canola	White	\$1.93	- \$1.94
Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.90	

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound, ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

ARGENTINA

Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.86	- \$1.96
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.80	- \$2.15
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.89	- \$1.95

BRAZIL

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.65	- \$1.96
ORGANIC	White	\$2.08	
ORGANIC	Extra Light	\$1.92	- \$1.98
ORGANIC	Light Amber	\$1.89	- \$1.92
ORGANIC	Amber	\$1.89	

INDIA

Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.72	- \$1.82
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.43	- \$1.72
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.36	- \$1.63
Mustard	White	\$1.82	- \$1.84
Mustard	Extra Light	\$1.48	- \$1.74
Mustard	Light Amber	\$1.48	

MEXICO

Orange Blossom	Extra Light	\$2.22	
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VIETNAM

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.48	- \$1.50
Mixed Flowers	Dark	\$1.36	

UKRAINE

Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.71	
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.69	- \$1.71
Sunflower	Extra Light	\$1.71	

URUGUAY

Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.77	
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.77	
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.54	- \$1.68

COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING MAY, 2015

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV): May temperatures varied widely depending on the day and the week. Temperatures in parts of the District reached the upper eighties some days and only in the fifties other days. There were a couple of days with temperatures at or near freezing, but damage to crops were minimal. Farmers spent the month planting, spraying and thinning. The start of the month was dry, but by the last weeks of the month, scattered precipitation were received in varying amounts alleviating the dry conditions from earlier in the month. A few beekeepers reported some swarming as colonies are building up from the high winter losses. All are reporting colonies are very active. Pollen levels for the month were generally very high albeit the showers at the end of the month reduced those levels. Pollen sources in May were tulip poplar, sourwood, sumac, white clover, blackberry and various wildflowers.

ALABAMA: May weather in Alabama was fairly wet and mild. Swarming continued at a frantic pace the first week or so before the really wet weather came, so many beekeepers are dealing with the results that follow such a heavy swarm season. Queen issues are common in many colonies, which have cut honey production for some beekeepers. Colonies that haven't split, however, are making a lot of honey. The flow has slowed a bit, especially because of recent rains, but is still going on to some degree statewide. Clover and privet is still hanging on in the south. The honey crop seems to be average to above average in most parts of the state. Wet weather killed the flow a little earlier than normal for some folks.

Small hive beetle seems to be building up slow again this year as it did last year. There is concern that this is the new trend for SHB in the area. Pests seem to be remarkably low right at the moment.

ARIZONA: During the month of May, temperatures were at above normal levels during the first and last half week of the month, while they were at below normal levels for the rest of the month. The range of temperatures for the month were from a high of 109 degrees Fahrenheit in Bullhead City to a low of 21 degrees Fahrenheit at Grand Canyon. During the four weeks in May, 19, 44, 43 and 11 of the 50 reporting stations received precipitation, respectively. For 2015 thus far, 23 of the 50 reporting stations are at above normal precipitation levels for the year.

Melons (Cantaloupes, Honeydews, Watermelons), Desert and plant bloom were the main sources for nectar and pollen in the state, with alfalfa also serving as a source. Demand for honey remains good.

ARKANSAS: No report issued.

CALIFORNIA: A summertime weather pattern prevailed last week. Daily high and low temperatures were consistent much of the week. Along the coast (from north to south), highs were typically in the 60s-70s, in the 80s-90s across the valley, and in the 60s-70s in the mountains, except at the highest elevations. Across the southeastern deserts, highs soared into the triple digits. Lows averaged in the 50s-60s along the coast, and the 30s-40s in the mountains. A slight warming trend in overnight lows were noted across the valley and into the southern deserts, there lows were in the 50s-60s across the valley and 60s-70s in the desert. Overnight lows by the weekend were about 5 degrees warmer than early in the week at these locations. Most of the State saw dry weather for the entire week. A few locations received rain showers on one or more days because a surface pressure trough along the front ridge of the Sierras. The most rainfall fell along an area from Redding to Tahoe and included a few locations such as Yosemite and Sacramento. Most locations in these areas received around one half an inch of rain this week, although there were considerable variability in rainfall amounts. Isolated locations in the Tahoe area had as much as an inch, although other locations did not receive any rainfall at all.

The drought continues to make it tough for the bees to find enough nectar and beekeepers are having to supplement feeding when usually this time of the year the bees are normally building up. Some beekeepers are moving the bees out of state and those that stay will be forced to feed large amounts of sugar to keep the hives healthy. Alfalfa seed fields will provide some nectar. Honey prices remain strong.

FLORIDA: May was hot and dry, particularly in Central Florida. Some areas on the east coast and in south Florida received more normal rainfall amounts, but were still hot. Bee health was considered to be good and generally improving. Gallberry, palmetto and tupelo honey production ended well before the end of the month and all three appeared to be considerably lower than normal. Tupelo production was adversely affected by heavy rainfall in April and early May, while gallberry and palmetto production was cut back mainly because of hot and dry weather. Chinese Tallow will be the next significant source of food and will begin in early June and extend into late June. Supplies of honey continue to be very light with good demand resulting in steady or slightly higher prices.

Many beekeepers were sending hives to Northern states for pollination duties by mid to late May. They will remain there for most of the summer pollinating a wide range of vegetables and fruits. Some honey will also be produced, primarily clover honey. Honeybee pollination has several favorable benefits. One is the obvious monetary benefit to the owners of the hives being earned for pollination fees. The second is a monetary benefit to the farmer/growers who substantially increase the volume of fruits or vegetables they produce because of honeybee pollination. The biggest winner appears to be the consumer, who benefits from much lower food prices because of the much larger volumes of food produced due to the benefits of honeybee pollination.

GEORGIA: Mixed results for May throughout the state with most areas of concern volume of honey affected by weather conditions. The southern and central areas of the state have had the biggest margin of loss for volume produced so far compared to other years. Some beekeepers have had very little honey produced and others may have up to 20-30 percent of a normal year's crop. The Tupelo flow was severely affected and Gallberry will be very light. Comb honey will be very tight on available supplies. In the northern areas and mountain regions the spring honey flow appears to look fair to okay for June pulling. The upcoming Sourwood flow looks fair and needs some dry weather for the next few weeks. The bees are reported to be in good condition after the beekeepers diligently worked with the hives to replace the losses from last winter. The devastating losses and problems caused by fluctuating weather conditions have discouraged many new beekeepers from restocking and starting new hives. Swarming has been minimal as compared to earlier reports. This year's cotton bloom looks promising.

IDAHO, COLORADO, UTAH: Temperatures were below normal over most of Utah and Colorado and above normal in most of Idaho during the month of May, according to the National Weather Service. During May precipitation was below normal in the Lewiston, Idaho area. The rest of Idaho, Colorado and Utah recorded above normal precipitation. The up and down weather continues to present management issues for beekeepers. The varied weather of hot, cold, wet and dry periods makes it hard to plan for the next phase of management operations. Knowing what to expect next from Mother Nature has been like hitting a moving target lately. First there was the early pollination of fruit trees in Utah followed by a dearth period for the bees. Then there was some late snow in the Central areas of Colorado on May 18th and 19th. One beekeeper stated that in all of his beekeeping years, he

could never remember snow that late in his South Central area of Colorado. Bee flying time has been diminished during the past month due to the many rainy events across the three State area.

During the month of May, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, despite the generous precipitation during the month, long term abnormally dry to extreme drought conditions exist across Idaho and Utah. Western areas of Colorado have abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions. In addition, the plentiful rains in May have finally ended the long term drought in Southeastern Colorado. Most areas on the Eastside of Colorado now are showing normal moisture conditions according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Bees throughout the Mountain States of Idaho, Utah and Colorado are looking healthy and fat according to beekeepers as of late May. The excessive rainy weather has caused many good foraging nectar plants to be delayed, thereby creating another dearth period for the bees. There have been locations of choke cherries and dandelion's scattered across the 3 States. But these foraging plants are certainly not going to be the main focus of the normal commercial beekeepers. Some frames of brood in Utah are not looking great at this time. While other hives in Colorado and Idaho are showing solid frames of good brood. All beekeepers need now is a little good warm dry weather to get the nectar flowing, thereby putting their bees back to work.

There still seems to be adequate pollen for new increasing brood production, but the lack of nectar has required beekeepers to provide supplemental corn syrup or sugar water to help maintain the hive strength and health. Some beekeepers have been spot feeding only as needed.

Depending on location, alfalfa and clover are starting to bloom in Idaho, Utah and Colorado. Some higher elevation locations are up to 2-3 weeks behind. One beekeeper stated that the second crop of alfalfa is usually the best crop of the season because growers tend to leave the bloom for a longer period of time before cutting. This increased time frame provides the bees more time to gather nectar, thereby increasing honey production. It appears that varroa mite loads continue their fairly lower levels as of late May across the 3 State area.

The lower levels of mites continue their recent trend, mainly due to beekeeper awareness of the issue and the ability to utilize management practices to stay ahead of looming potential mite problems. Beekeepers are planning to actively add honey supers to the bee colonies in anticipation of the larger amounts of nectar and pollen coming into colony locations in the near future. Keeping up with the colony while it is actively growing in bee numbers and filling with honey is a full time job for beekeepers during the summer. One of the keys of management is to only add honey supers as needed. Too much extra room in the hive is unproductive and can be detrimental to the colony. Wholesale demand for honey is very good and exceeds current supply levels in Idaho, Utah and Colorado

ILLINOIS: No report issued.

IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA: Heavy precipitation was dominate throughout the region. Rainfall totals were in surplus, giving some relief to drought conditions. Temperatures were below normal as some early month freeze events occurred. Above normal rainfall has caused a concern for beekeepers, as bees have been limited in outside activity. Some beekeepers have continued to supplement food.

Beekeepers were still busy with classes, spring management of hives, introducing package bees and queens. Queens are increasing in egg production, brood chambers are filling quickly. Hive numbers have increased. Workers have been out foraging fruit orchards, along with alfalfa, black locust, dandelion, various wild flower and clovers. Some beekeepers have begun to put on supers. Honey prices continue to remain strong.

INDIANA: No report issued.

KENTUCKY: Because of a rare two-week dry spell, Kentucky enjoyed a stellar black locust bloom throughout the commonwealth, and many beekeepers are harvesting honey. The tulip poplar flow was not as prolific due to a sudden drop in temperatures in mid-May, but beekeepers are looking forward to a basswood bloom in a week. It has been an epic year for swarms. Thus far, there have been few reports of disease, although there are scattered reports of nosema, sacbrood, and in one specific case in EKY, two hives were burned because of AFB due to neglect of hives from last autumn.

LOUISIANA: No report issued.

MICHIGAN: Cooler temperatures and intermittent showers brought moderate flows from dandelion, maples, boxelder and some fruit bloom in mid-Michigan. Currently, bees are gathering nectar and pollen from honeysuckles and some nectar from Hawthorne, blackberries and lack locust beginning to bloom. Swarms are being reported and causing some congestion due to nurse bees building swarm cells in the nest. Demand for local honey has remained strong, although supplies are scarce until the first harvest of summer. Some beekeepers are talking about a price increase as the new season draws near. One commercial beekeeper indicated bees coming back from almond pollination in California are were in excellent condition, and arrived in time for the second half of the Florida orange flow. Now bees are busy with blueberry pollination and reports have indicated a more robust population going into blueberry pollination than previous years. Midway through blueberry pollination, bees are storing surplus, in spite of inconsistent weather conditions. Prices for orange honey have remained strong, due to an average-to-below average crop affected by harsh freezing temperatures going into the bloom period. Prices have been from \$2.25-2.50 per pound for semi-load lots of drums or more per load. Demand is very good going into the summer season, and receiving calls for our blueberry honey. Prices are firm and holding at \$2.25 per pound sold in semi load lots of 65 drums or more.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures were near normal to slightly above normal over Eastern areas and below normal over Western areas of Minnesota during the month of May. Precipitation was above normal across the entire State during the same period. Despite the generous precipitation during the month of May, the U.S. Drought Monitor continues to indicate a long term abnormally dry to moderate drought pattern over the entire State.

All commercial beekeepers have now returned to Minnesota for the summer season. Now that most of the corn has been planted and the threat of seed treatment containing neonicotinoids spreading to foraging bees has passed, commercial beekeepers feel that it is safer to have their bee's back home. Although the bees in Minnesota are looking healthy overall at this time, the wet rainy conditions have made it hard for bees to fly in the past month. This type of weather has also created a dearth period for the bees due to many foraging plants being delayed. There still seems to be adequate pollen for new brood production, but the lack of nectar has required beekeepers to provide supplemental corn syrup or sugar water to help maintain the hive strength and health.

There have been spots of dandelions scattered across the State. However, these foraging plants are certainly not going to be the main focus of the normal commercial beekeepers. With solid frames with good brood, all beekeepers need now is a little good warm dry weather to get the nectar flowing to put their bees back to work.

Minnesota beekeepers are anticipating that sweet clover will be the next foraging crop with some real nectar potential around the middle of June. With the brood patterns looking good many Minnesota hives are gaining in their numbers at this time. Varroa mite loads continue their lower levels as

of late May. Beekeepers are planning to actively add honey supers to the bee colonies in anticipation of the larger amounts of nectar and pollen coming into colony locations in the near future. Keeping up with the colony while it is actively growing in bee numbers and filling with honey is a full time job for beekeepers during the summer. One of the keys of management is to only add honey supers as needed. Too much extra room in the hive is unproductive and can be detrimental to the colony.

Wholesale demand for honey is very good and continues to exceed the current supply levels until the limited amounts of new crop honey becomes available in July and August.

MISSISSIPPI: Beekeepers are reporting that the bees are in pretty good condition and have produced some honey, though not as much as needed for demand. Privet hedge honey volume was fair and the Popcorn flow has started along with the clover and wildflowers just before the Tallow comes in. Rain has been the main factor for less volume of honey so far this year and supplies appear to be tight again.

MONTANA: Montana weather continued warm and dry during May. Topsoil moisture measurements at the end of May measured 6 percent very short, 28 short, 57 percent adequate, and 9 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture measured 7 percent short, 22 very short, 58 percent adequate and 13 surplus.

During May colony health was said to be generally good. Bee keepers were busy with their spring chores at home while at the same time trucking home any migratory colonies remaining in the Pacific Northwest. Wild plants in bloom were willows, brush, dandelions, and choke cherries. Honey demand was good.

NEW ENGLAND: Weather for May featured a pattern that has been seasonal with temperatures normal for most of the month in Southern New England. This month's weather in Northern New England featured a pattern of cooler, unstable temperatures with a mixture of some mild to hot and humid days and some cool to cold temperature days. Precipitation for the month was about normal with all regions reporting adequate moisture levels that will help push into foliation ornamental and floral sources for pollen and nectar such as dandelion (*taraxacum officinale*) as well as ornamental Japanese or blood good red maple and crab apple. Dandelion (*taraxacum officinale*), and ground ivy was very productive this year. Its nectar is very tasty and produces golden honey that is strong in flavor and the pollen is orange in color. The species of dandelion called *epithet officinale* refers to its medicinal qualities. Additional early sources exhibiting early bloom were chokecherry(*prunus virginiana*), blackberry(*prunus serotina*), pin cherry(*prunus pensylvanica*), peaches(*prunus persica*), plums(*prunis Americana*), apples(*malus*), as well as honeysuckle(*lonicerata tarian*), blueberry(*vaccinium*), black locust, glossy buckthorn, hawkweed(king devil), chive, mustard and lilac. Additional good pollen plants are greater celandine (*chelidonium majus*), autumn olive (*elaeagnus umbellata*), Russian olive (*elaeagnus angustifolia*) and silverberry (*elaeagnus commutate*). There is a lot of nectar being brought in from various sources.

Reportedly, hives are mostly strong and have stored honey already. Early on, sugar maples are not as big a producer of nectar as red maples. Yellow pollen is accumulating in combs from sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*). Seasonal conditions have stimulated bee foraging and most bee colonies have responded very rapidly to create a heavy population count. Queens are laying larger patches of eggs; colonies are expanding brood nests and bringing in much pollen and nectar. This is the time of year that honeybees collect more honey than is needed for their survival. Keepers report that a strong hive, namely 15 frames of bees or more - when the honey flow starts and there are plenty of supers for nectar storage; one can average 60 to 80 pounds of honey. Keepers report that the key to a good honey crop is having strong hives and controlling varroa mites and hive beetles.

Currently, beekeepers depending on hived bee packages from this spring are clearly challenged by poor mated queens' received from some Southern package producers. There has been a strong demand for queens as many beekeepers are splitting colonies and making increases to their apiaries. Reportedly, queen sellers have noted that some beekeeping brokers selling nuc hives have been shortchanging some buyers by offerings nothing more than a package of bees put on new comb and the queen sold with the nuc still in the cage. This year so far most queen sellers have been extremely busy with beekeepers ordering queens that did not take in packages; with a lot of reports of poor laying queens, drone layers and more issues with laying workers than ever before. There are reports of hives that were initially thriving with brood end up a month later with very low brood counts. The wet spring weather in some parts of the South hampered mating flights such that these keepers are experiencing colonies that are slow in building up, and it is recommended that you re-queen. The May honeybees' primary objective is to store as much nectar as possible. The urge at this time to swarm becomes secondary but it's still possible if they get crowded. It forces queens to have to look harder for places to lay eggs. Beekeepers lately have had to deal with hot temperatures, ticks, and decreasing nectar as spring has turned quickly into summer as we enter June. We have been abruptly cut off as dry and very hot conditions settled in on the Northeast, - stopping most nectar production at a time when colonies are reaching optimal populations. While the weather has finally warmed up, the dry conditions will probably affect the nectar flow unless we get rain soon. Several beekeepers state that their hives are swarming, some of them multiple times. Many beekeepers forget to check their hives often enough to prevent swarming although they do seem to get better at it with experience. Beekeepers are monitoring their colonies often, adding supers or making splits and divides when hives become too crowded, especially using the technique of making new colonies with capped brood frames with swarm colonies. A swarm leaves the hive with little brood to boost the population for at least 3 weeks. The hive needs an abundance of foraging bees to bring in a honey crop. Beekeepers are likely to see many swarms as we enter June. In regional pocket areas where weather was clearly seasonal, colony strength numbers increased dramatically. Beekeeping is really like farming, you need just enough rain and sun but not an excess of either to be successful.

Keepers report that bees are primed for comb building and expansion at this time of the year especially regarding reversing hive bodies. Comb renewal is part of ensuring a healthy environment for the bees. The main beekeeper activities at this point in time are: evaluating your queen's productivity, examining brood patterns and how much they are in balance status, along with making sure there are not any laying workers or drone only laying queen. Additionally, besides looking at what your supering needs are, keepers need to be looking at (IPM) integrated pest management programs and options for disease and mite problems. The philosophy of; just let them alone and they will be fine beekeeping, - is a good recipe for spreading disease. Beekeepers need to be aware that they need to prevent the spread of disease.

This is that noted time of the year known as the fruit bloom on the beekeepers calendar. Apple pollination was reportedly problematic as reportedly some keepers have addressed fruit grower needs especially apples, by setting up beehives no later than the 2nd week of May. This year pollination fees are set at \$85.00 to \$150.00 mostly \$125.00 per hive with 4- hives per pallet and a 1- pallet minimum. Pollination hives have been deployed to apples, blueberries and other earlier crops. Apple pollination came fast and orchards only kept the bees a week, just fewer days then is normally required for pollination. Hopefully growers had enough pollination to set a crop. There were no reported strong frost conditions so that is a positive over last year. Many keepers early on had observed pollen frenzies at the front porches of their hives, mostly cream colored and orange pollens as activity was intense. Reportedly, hives experiencing superseded queens usually show offspring bees of a different coloring. Bee associations advise beekeepers to be diligent in preventing swarms and to be watching for varroa mites. Spring splits have been developing normally, but require higher sugar ratios for heat generation and protein supplement if you are experiencing wet conditions in your area because of slowing natural nectar and pollen availability.

Pesticides continue to be a concern to all beekeepers. There have been many reported instances where beekeepers that provide bees to growers for pollination purposes have complained to their grower employers and their beekeeper associations with the concern of the practice of broadcast spraying of crop fungicides in a timely way that puts their pollination hives in high risk circumstances. There is an ongoing national dialogue concerning the issue of how much pollination services are being negatively affected by particular grower fungicide practices and how much there is a risk causal relationship in this regard.

Demand at all retail/wholesale outlets remains good and honey sales remain firm. Prices quoted for retail 1 lb. bottled units were \$9.00 to \$12.00 mostly \$12.00, occasionally higher, and 1 Quart bottled units were \$18.00 to \$20.00 mostly \$20.00, occasionally higher, inclusive of all varieties; for food service operations, prices were firm with 5 gallon units at \$195.00 to \$240.00 mostly \$230.00 and occasionally lower for all raw and natural honey depending on variety and quality.

In the Northeast overall, the wholesale natural and raw honey price has been around \$2.50 to \$2.80 per pound, mostly \$2.80 per pound, occasionally higher, by the 55 gallon barrel. Propolis reportedly is \$14.00 to \$17.00 mostly \$16.00 for 2 ounces tincture and pollen is \$26.00 to \$30.00 mostly \$28.00 per quart.

NEW YORK: In the Finger Lakes region, the winter survival bee rate seems to be better. Warmer weather broke fast, which caused neciferous plants to pass bloom cycle fast. The nectar flows were fast with an unusual intensity. Black locust in beginning to bloom at month's end, and with the advent of warmer weather again, could mean a shorter flow. The ground is dry and beekeepers are hoping for a little rain, which should purport increasing flows. Pollen is heavy with layers of yellow "dust" around the state. Honey sales have remained brisk with steady pricing at this time.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures in North Carolina were mostly above normal throughout May. The state received mostly normal precipitation with statewide soil moisture levels rated 2 percent very short, 21 percent short, 71 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus the week ending May 23. The North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council reported 18 counties as being abnormally dry.

Apiary inspectors reported colonies as being in fairly good condition with any severe issues being attributed to individual management practices rather than widespread. Swarming rates were reported as being normal. During the month, bees could be seen working Sumac, Black Gum, Holly, Raspberry, and Tulip Poplar across the state. Dandelion, Black Locust, Persimmon, and Ladino White Clover were available in the Mountain and Piedmont regions. Also, available in the Piedmont region were Clovers (Aslike, Crimson, and Sweet), Vetch, and Privet. Huckleberry, Tupelo Gum, and Gallberry were blooming in the Coastal Plains region. Rainfall was just enough to prevent blooms from drying out, but not enough to hinder foraging. Commercial pollinator hives were spread out across much of the eastern United States working various crops and will soon be headed back to North Carolina to pollinate cucurbits. Unlike the 2014 season, there do not seem to be any difficulties to farmers in securing healthy hives to pollinate all of their planted acreage.

Demand for honey remains high and was quoted as being "a seller's market". Retail prices at the Raleigh State Farmers' Market were: \$8.00 per 8 ounce jar, \$13.00 per 16 ounce jar, \$22.00 per 32 ounce jar, and \$18.00 per 44 ounce jar.

NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA: Growers had generally warmer than normal temperatures with followed by some much needed rain. The additional rain is spurring on field crops including the clover and alfalfa which should provide more forage for the bees. The bees have returned from the South Central US, California, and the Pacific Northwest. Despite some issues with rain in Mississippi, and a compressed early season in the Northwest, the bees are looking good. Feeding is ongoing waiting for the forage crops to catch up.

OHIO: According to industry bee source Kim Flottum, with Bee Culture magazine, the EPA is proposing a federal rule to temporarily create pesticide-free zones when certain plants are in bloom around bees that are trucked from farm to farm by professional beekeepers. The pesticide halt would only occur during the time the flower is in bloom and the bees are present, and only on the property where the bees are working not the neighboring land. The ruling would apply to most pesticides, more than 1,000 products, and would include the much-debated class of pesticides called neonicotinoids. This is part of a new multi-part push by the Obama administration to try to reverse the dramatic declines in bee populations. A new federal study found beekeepers lost more than 40% of their colonies last year. The new rule "doesn't eliminate pesticide exposure to honeybees, but it should reduce it", said University of Illinois entomologist May Berenbaum. The EPA proposal does not apply to residential pesticide use, nor home beekeeping, but does affect about 90% of honeybees in the US. The ruling will apply to spraying pesticides on leaves, not seed or ground applications.

OKLAHOMA: No report issued.

OREGON: No report issued.

SOUTH CAROLINA: No report issued.

TENNESSEE: Tennessee has had a fair nectar flow this spring. Tulip Poplar and Black Locust blooms were excellent over most of the State. White Dutch clover is in full bloom across the State. Beekeepers that have been ahead of the bees and the nectar flows have produced more honey this year than the previous two years. No major health issues this spring.

TEXAS: No report issued.

WASHINGTON: May was generally warm with some precipitation later in the month. Most of the fruit apple, pear, and stone fruit growing regions were 50-90 growing degree days ahead of last season. Some areas received hail damaging crops in these locations. The alfalfa and hay had its first cuttings. Bees were working some vegetable crops and wildflowers. Various wildflower, including lupine, paintbrush, and sage were blooming at various elevations. Conditions of the bees and hives were mixed across the state.

WISCONSIN: No report issued.

U.S Exports of Honey By Country, Quantity, and Value

	Year to Date		April 2015	
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars
COMB & NATURAL HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -				
Afghanistan	1,322	12,310	756	8,171
Bahamas, The	824	7,419	0	0
Bangladesh	1,000	4,435	0	0
Barbados	10,209	35,063	2,630	11,395
Brazil	4,407	10,696	0	0
Cayman Islands	548	3,180	0	0
China	124,596	306,611	43,718	106,117
Guatemala	897	5,341	897	5,341
India	260,400	910,470	0	0
Japan	179,004	658,326	1,567	3,804
Korea, South	129,088	688,666	18,441	98,381
Kuwait	65,001	157,778	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	6,121	38,012	2,530	16,649
Panama	12,219	57,638	5,125	30,933
Philippines	52,898	131,727	952	5,638
Saudi Arabia	449	3,384	449	3,384
Singapore	9,238	28,369	0	0
United Arab Emirates	103,694	264,719	58,347	145,911
Yemen(*)	49,808	137,084	39,872	108,796

**NATURAL HONEY, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED
OR SPECIFIED - - -**

Bahamas, The	16,087	65,387	948	3,211
Barbados	2,479	16,093	0	0
Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	2,014	4,889	2,014	4,889
Bermuda	15,185	45,417	7,811	20,876
Canada	391,059	1,820,212	142,949	515,018
Cayman Islands	649	2,555	0	0
Chile	809	12,853	280	4,525
China	1,988	13,183	0	0
Dominican Republic	3,331	11,200	0	0
Germany(*)	3,543	10,000	0	0
Guatemala	229	2,586	0	0
Hong Kong	2,401	15,203	0	0
India	128,220	353,911	18,780	47,347
Japan	10,645	57,232	6,185	46,407
Korea, South	35,918	256,026	17,007	123,930
Netherlands Antilles(*)	5,851	23,260	2,075	4,869
Pakistan	10,761	74,923	0	0
Panama	408	3,056	0	0
Philippines	486	3,511	0	0
Saudi Arabia	17,148	43,405	576	3,181
Singapore	12,435	61,346	4,925	11,954
United Arab Emirates	4,615	21,088	2,316	5,622
United Kingdom	147	2,590	0	0
Vietnam	109,186	300,151	59,584	150,976
GRAND TOTAL	1,787,317	6,681,305	440,734	1,487,325

U.S Imports of Honey By Country, Quantity, and Value

Year to Date			April 2015		
Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars

WHITE HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

Argentina	1,710,290	6,769,359	6,896,401	697,119	2,755,106	2,803,969
Brazil	352,318	1,519,757	1,555,762	742	5,139	5,208
Canada	4,444,703	19,163,993	19,255,837	1,015,834	4,283,884	4,303,127
Dominican Republic	4,632	12,800	13,669	0	0	0
Germany(*)	614	2,095	2,162	614	2,095	2,162
India	656,400	2,283,773	2,321,481	638,700	2,228,549	2,265,257
Italy(*)	3,226	21,753	25,903	0	0	0
Mexico	267,714	1,114,717	1,125,480	94,602	390,224	395,427
New Zealand(*)	6,073	12,145	12,833	0	0	0
Serbia	1,416	9,183	9,755	0	0	0
Taiwan	132,231	281,256	301,110	58,430	118,325	122,740
Thailand	315,450	824,649	865,149	0	0	0
Ukraine	18,154	68,037	68,537	0	0	0
United Kingdom	2,117	17,527	18,909	1,129	11,212	11,679
Uruguay	94,805	373,289	380,928	57,000	224,916	231,570

EXTRA LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

Argentina	6,145,963	24,866,020	25,815,207	1,972,843	7,911,811	8,266,594
Australia(*)	19,500	88,725	89,288	0	0	0
Brazil	334,273	1,295,017	1,341,483	75,585	272,817	282,998
Canada	138,455	679,670	683,472	26,982	115,156	116,238
Denmark(*)	1,682	12,294	12,933	0	0	0
France(*)	8,104	28,015	29,146	7,860	25,521	26,602
India	4,106,384	13,204,100	13,702,240	1,886,100	6,340,781	6,538,235
Italy(*)	10,958	27,549	29,152	0	0	0
Mexico	834,908	3,406,424	3,439,780	428,025	1,747,309	1,771,164
New Zealand(*)	30,929	54,547	60,664	20,891	36,844	40,792
Portugal	219	2,408	2,608	0	0	0
Taiwan	400,200	980,856	1,026,256	133,400	329,567	342,267
Thailand	861,852	2,322,582	2,380,903	349,353	907,743	936,726
Ukraine	3,482,289	11,105,030	11,547,199	362,919	1,172,580	1,215,566
Uruguay	244,296	937,659	959,997	168,563	646,085	666,498

LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE –

Argentina	605,825	2,478,756	2,570,299	131,341	489,725	499,229
Australia(*)	3,079	40,683	41,396	2,426	32,304	32,774
Austria	46,728	397,017	419,778	14,997	141,871	150,494
Brazil	759,503	2,887,795	2,961,642	189,580	719,770	739,784
Bulgaria	8,858	32,826	35,326	0	0	0
Burma	795,300	1,941,820	2,064,804	147,900	365,900	390,500
Canada	328	2,284	2,315	328	2,284	2,315
Cote d'Ivoire	76,800	220,032	220,034	38,400	110,016	110,017
Croatia	432	3,662	3,664	432	3,662	3,664
Denmark(*)	3,688	26,208	27,569	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	214,567	674,730	706,421	47,200	165,159	170,447
Ethiopia(*)	20,880	88,740	91,275	20,880	88,740	91,275
Germany(*)	70,953	352,578	369,602	0	0	0

Greece	4,731	27,823	29,446	1,188	9,065	9,441
India	3,099,140	9,432,026	9,858,449	1,474,220	4,535,495	4,749,266
Israel(*)	1,363	8,225	8,493	0	0	0
Italy(*)	2,549	46,394	47,835	207	3,124	3,181
Kuwait	2,779	24,689	27,196	2,779	24,689	27,196
Mexico	127,266	474,494	478,424	20,144	93,531	93,684
Pakistan	3,420	12,882	14,170	0	0	0
Spain	7,516	65,011	66,331	1,600	13,556	13,791
Taiwan	654,045	1,501,531	1,548,831	271,425	611,140	619,640
Thailand	2,337,970	5,941,494	6,279,005	785,530	1,976,997	2,118,341
Turkey	2,029,260	5,570,700	6,110,702	744,000	2,250,600	2,450,600
Ukraine	381,900	1,225,629	1,282,524	190,380	607,360	628,865
Uruguay	280,649	979,902	991,282	189,063	661,183	670,128
Vietnam	7,353,580	20,480,066	21,525,437	1,396,500	3,909,346	4,070,647

NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED ---

Argentina	34,810	132,278	142,278	34,810	132,278	142,278
Australia(*)	94	2,419	2,539	94	2,419	2,539
Canada	21,261	61,751	66,866	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	152,971	371,276	386,390	47,949	118,868	124,064
Egypt	2,046	9,200	9,897	0	0	0
France(*)	2,091	31,481	32,405	1,121	20,350	20,857
Greece	8,226	69,161	74,120	1,446	21,809	23,198
India	25,754	105,424	109,850	13,064	56,845	58,471
Indonesia	121,800	328,860	343,860	0	0	0
Israel(*)	94	2,700	2,786	94	2,700	2,786
Italy(*)	3,627	60,217	62,302	702	11,725	12,088
Mexico	130,137	459,120	461,693	94,136	359,311	360,056
Moldova	3,535	6,315	7,354	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	375,357	3,049,914	3,124,377	126,528	880,003	895,341
Poland	7,338	43,606	47,827	0	0	0
Russia	19,050	87,937	92,932	320	7,488	8,557
Spain	233	2,565	2,605	0	0	0
Taiwan	220,199	583,127	618,435	99,820	265,912	281,880
Turkey	1,419	7,996	11,749	0	0	0
Ukraine	23,130	61,783	68,842	0	0	0
Uruguay	17,144	38,574	41,074	0	0	0
Vietnam	979,934	2,615,978	2,738,106	57,180	146,933	156,882

COMB AND RETAIL HONEY –

Austria	2,218	30,436	32,691	168	4,611	4,903
Brazil	11,205	85,488	87,772	4,581	42,003	42,204
Bulgaria	45,136	172,763	183,590	9,652	40,442	44,239
Canada	29,272	224,223	224,799	13,355	91,020	91,270
Dominican Republic	2,238	11,088	11,380	150	2,304	2,384
Egypt	3,999	9,734	10,054	0	0	0
France(*)	145,003	577,535	603,488	27,623	98,114	103,499
Germany(*)	85,741	427,862	446,051	66,605	320,065	332,003
Greece	23,984	260,985	270,845	13,890	158,894	164,102
Guatemala	5,928	9,250	9,705	0	0	0
Hungary	15,286	90,490	97,791	8,606	41,215	45,715
India	315,434	991,691	1,033,019	95,254	302,008	315,836
Israel(*)	1,858	12,960	13,010	1,858	12,960	13,010
Italy(*)	4,574	70,100	72,069	2,028	30,319	31,273
Lithuania	4,964	21,834	24,018	0	0	0

Mexico	15,690	67,191	71,018	807	3,140	3,143
New Zealand(*)	352,167	2,521,223	2,559,234	139,984	953,025	969,781
Poland	14,988	55,419	59,000	2,810	19,035	20,443
Portugal	12,777	81,524	85,077	7,893	48,915	50,626
Russia	6,689	29,522	32,466	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	790	6,517	6,606	0	0	0
Serbia	3,942	29,490	30,756	0	0	0
Spain	28,315	216,645	224,607	5,379	36,644	37,494
Switzerland(*)	10,313	38,529	40,356	9,335	22,475	23,622
Taiwan	30,581	75,929	80,017	25,427	41,192	44,146
Turkey	49,111	306,302	317,588	25,842	142,611	149,254
Ukraine	24,807	70,144	74,830	2,803	2,777	3,055
United Arab Emirates	908	5,400	5,607	908	5,400	5,607

FLAVORED HONEY –

Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	1,040	3,186	3,389	0	0	0
Canada	6,724	89,270	89,303	0	0	0
China	11,209	59,523	61,076	0	0	0
El Salvador	2,309	9,070	10,619	0	0	0
Finland	73	14,130	14,298	0	0	0
India	36,055	79,768	83,277	0	0	0
Ireland	203	2,325	2,569	0	0	0
Italy(*)	1,037	29,109	29,709	307	10,824	10,874
Japan	180	22,877	22,977	0	0	0
Korea, South	68,371	1,406,907	1,447,703	7,893	172,311	176,713
Lebanon	240	3,600	3,744	0	0	0
Mexico	37,813	322,838	326,895	2,992	33,895	34,340
New Zealand(*)	76	12,207	12,454	45	7,620	7,769
Russia	2,600	4,542	4,996	0	0	0
Spain	739	5,238	6,252	0	0	0
Taiwan	11,174	25,246	26,789	8,966	19,874	21,116
Thailand	20,809	96,248	99,399	10,079	48,463	49,209

ORGANIC HONEY –

Argentina	10,745	76,342	78,241	0	0	0
Australia(*)	9,240	75,010	77,510	9,240	75,010	77,510
Brazil	3,865,919	15,379,522	15,962,896	1,093,079	4,194,470	4,367,240
Canada	25,949	199,091	203,824	12,550	91,593	94,551
Greece	960	12,681	12,904	576	7,397	7,498
India	36,300	94,000	95,500	36,300	94,000	95,500
Italy(*)	4,173	53,951	55,492	626	5,172	5,388
Mexico	21,492	90,046	93,943	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	13,147	166,749	171,259	0	0	0
Ukraine	74,340	229,712	243,712	74,340	229,712	243,712

GRAND TOTAL	51,184,349	179,618,370	186,152,955	15,866,426	55,777,332	57,768,124
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Notes:

1. Data Source: Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics
2. All zeroes for a data item may show that statistics exist in the other import type. Consumption or General.
3. (*) denotes a country that is a summarization of its component countries.
4. Users should use cautious interpretation on QUANTITY reports using mixed units of measure.
QUANTITY line items will only include statistics on the units of measure that are equal to, or are able to be converted to, the assigned unit of measure of the grouped commodities.
5. The CIF Value is not included within the 13th month data loads. This means that the CIF Value will be zero (0) for any records that are inserted during this process.
6. Product Group : Harmonized